

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside and backside surfaces, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer composed solely of a skin adherent hydrophobic gel and secured to the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer, the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and surrounding the peripheral edges of the absorbent core;

wherein the first adhesive layer is contiguous with the peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

Claim 2. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 3. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 2, wherein the backing layer extends along the peripheral edges of the absorbent core.

Claim 4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer is a skin adherent silicone gel.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, further comprising a second skin adherent facing layer secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core thereby forming a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing, and defining a plurality apertures arranged in a pattern, a periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first facing layer.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer has greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer defines at least one compliant element formed therefrom and detached from the distal surface of the absorbent core and extending over an intermediate portion of the absorbent core interposed between the border and central portions thereof.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed backside and bodyside surfaces, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the distal surface including a central portion and a border portion;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over

the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing;

a first ~~adhesive~~ skin adherent facing layer secured only to the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer, the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing and surrounding the peripheral edges of the absorbent core; and

a second perforated, skin adherent facing layer directly secured to and coextensive with the proximal surface of the absorbent core, the second facing layer defining a portion of the bodyside surface of the wound dressing, a periphery of the second facing layer being contiguous with a periphery of the first facing layer.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer is substantially parallel with the distal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the border portion of the backing layer includes at least two opposed elongate sections, each opposed elongate section extending from a corresponding side of the absorbent core.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer is a pressure sensitive adhesive.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer extends along the entire proximal surface of the backing layer.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 17, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer is sufficiently porous so as not to occlude moisture transmission through the backing layer.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the first ~~adhesive~~ facing layer of the backing layer has greater skin adherence properties than the second facing layer.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 12, wherein the peripheral edges of the absorbent core have a bevel extending downwardly and inwardly towards a central axis thereof from the distal surface to the proximal surface thereof.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside and backside surfaces, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

• a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer composed of a skin adherent hydrophobic gel and directly secured to both the proximal surfaces of the absorbent core and the border portion of the backing layer, the facing layer defining a pattern of through extending apertures only along the portion thereof bounded by the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the facing layer defining the bodyside surface of the wound dressing.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing having opposed bodyside and backside surfaces, comprising:

an absorbent core defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces;

a liquid impervious, vapor permeable backing layer defining opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the proximal surface of the backing layer extending over the distal surface of the absorbent core, and defining a border portion extending

beyond and surrounding peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the distal surface of the backing layer defining the backside surface of the wound dressing; and

a continuous skin adherent facing layer directly secured to both the proximal surfaces of the absorbent core and the proximal surface of the border portion of the backing layer, the facing layer defining a pattern of through extending apertures ~~only~~ along an apertured portion thereof adjacent to the distal surface of the absorbent core and bounded by the peripheral edges of the absorbent core, the portion of the facing layer corresponding to the border portion of the backing layer having a generally smooth surface, the facing layer defining the entirety of the bodyside of the wound dressing.